

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims to be as follows.

Claims 1-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 3,~~ A method of determining local relative z-ordering information, the method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a first image frame and second image frame containing digital image data;
- (b) dividing the first image frame and second image frame into segments, wherein a first segment overlaps a second segment in at least one of said image frames;
- (c) matching segments of the first image frame to the second image frame, and matching segments of the second image frame to the first image frame; and
- (d) comparing an overlapped condition between the first and second segments in one of said image frames with newly visible portions in the other of said image frames to determine relative z-ordering between the first and second segments; and
- (e) breaking any cyclical relationships

wherein the cyclical relationships are broken by:

- (a) obtaining a sequence of segments which share a cyclical z-ordering relationship; and
- (b) canceling the weakest relationships between segments until the cyclical relationship is broken.